

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Final Office Action mailed March 23, 2009, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Entry of the present amendment and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-15 and 17-22 are pending in the application, where claims 1 and 18 are independent.

In the Final Office Action, claims 1, 5-15 and 17-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 2,806,968 (Thorington) in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,668,455 (Dale). Further, claims 2-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Thorington, in view of Dale and U.S. Patent No. 5,723,937 (Whitman). Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Thorington, in view of Dale and U.S. Patent No. 6,137,230 (Born). Applicants respectfully traverse and submit that claims 1-15 and 17-22, as amended, are patentable over Thorington, Dale, Whitman and Born.

Thorington is directed to a lamp having an outer envelope 22 shown in FIG 1. As shown in FIG 3, the inner surface of the outer

envelope 22 is coated with a mixture of phosphor particles 35a and fine particles of silica. The fine silica particles form a coating 39 over the phosphor particles 35a. FIG 3 shows the silica coated phosphor particles touching each other.

Dale is directed to a fluorescent lamp with inorganic phosphor coating on the lamp envelope. The phosphor particles have the shape of spheres 31, 32 that may be disposed over each other, as shown in FIG 3.

It is respectfully submitted that Thorington, Dale, and combination thereof, do not teach or suggest the present invention as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claim 18 which, amongst other patentable features, recites (illustrative emphasis provided):

an outer bulb, wherein a surface of at least one of the inner vessel and the outer bulb **is patterned to form a pattern** configured to increase a diffuseness of the discharge arc, wherein the pattern includes structured arrangements formed on the surface, the structured arrangements physically overlapping over each so that a first structured arrangement is in physical contact with a second structured arrangement.

A lamp having its inner vessel and/or outer bulb patterned to

form a pattern configured to increase a diffuseness is nowhere disclosed or suggested in Thorington and Dale, alone or in combination. Rather, both Thorington and Dale disclose a lamp which is coated with phosphor particles. The lamps disclosed in Thorington and Dale appear to have smooth inner vessel and/or outer bulb that are not patterned. Any patterns in Thorington and Dale are due to the phosphor particles on the lamp, and not due to the inner vessel and/or outer bulb themselves being patterned.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 18 should be allowable, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-15, 17 and 19-22 should also be allowed at least based on their dependence from independent claims 1 and 18 as well as their individually patentable elements. Accordingly, separate consideration of each of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

For example, claims 11-12 and 19-20 recite that the pattern is configured to provide an optical impression showing a change in a viewed position of a brightest spot of the discharge arc despite lack of an actual change. These features are nowhere disclosed or

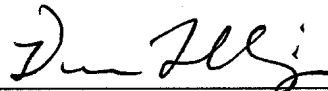
suggested in Thorington, Dale and combination thereof. The allegation that FIG 3, and column 4, lines 60-62 of Thorington disclose these features is misplaced. Column 4, lines 60-62 of Thorington specifically recite that "scatter visible radiation from the discharge and the phosphor so as to produce a more uniform brightness." Such a disclosure has nothing to do with the features of claims 11-12 and 19-20 related to perceived and actual location of the brightest spot. Accordingly, allowance of claims 11-12 and 19-20 is respectfully requested.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

Amendment in Reply to the Final Office Action of March 23, 2009

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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May 18, 2009

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